JUN 2 1 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No.

9/682,627

Confirmation No. 2280

Applicant

Masakazu KARITA

Filed :

October 1, 2001

Tech. Cntr./Art Unit

3736

Examiner

Brian Scott Szmal

Docket No.

31.001-AG

Customer No.

29453

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile-transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, fax no. (703) 872-9306 on June 21, 2004.

James W. Judge Reg. No. 42,701

Honorable Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 Signature _and W), will

REPLY Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Sir:

In response to the Office action of January 21, 2004 reconsideration of the above-identified patent application, amended as follows, is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.